RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday the 25th March 1992/5th Chaitra 1914 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, **Mr. Chairman** in the Chair

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR CHAIRMAN : Q No. 361...

SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL : Sir, I am on a point of order..... (*Interruptions*)...

MR CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order in Question Hour.

MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order Q. No. 361.

SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL : I have a point of order, Sir.

MR CHAIRMAN : I am not giving you permission.

श्री मौलाना ओबेदुल्ला खान आजमी : सर, मस्जिद को तोड़ा जा रहा है और .... (**व्यवधान**)...ऐसी व्यवस्थाएं होती जा रही हैं। क्वैश्चन ऑवर से पहले मैं इस मसले को उठाना निहायत जरूरी समझता हूं।

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not giving you permission. मैं आपको इजाजत नहीं दे रहा हूं। यह कल हो चुका है, क्वैश्चन आवर सस्पेण्ड। क्वैश्चन आवर बहुत अहमियत की चीज है। इस अहम मसले पर एक दिन मैंने दे दिया। अब क्वैश्चन आवर के लिए, हम नहीं छोड़ सकेंगे। यह बहुत भारी हक है मेम्बरान का, सरकार से, उससे सवालात करने का। इसलि .... (**व्यवधान**).... आज इस हादसे के लिए मैं इजाजत नहीं दे रहा हूं। क्वैश्चन 361.

Unlicenced Blood Banks

*361. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that over six hundred unlincenced Blood Banks are operating in the country on commercial basis ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to provide safe blood ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDARTHA) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

A survey conducted in 1990 revealed that out of 1018 Blood banks in the country, 616 were operating without licence. Information received from 22 States/Union Territories indicates that out of a total of 602 blood banks in these States/UTs, 350 only were licensed and the remaining 252 were operating without a license.

The following measures have been taken to improve the functioning of the Blood Banks in the country :—

(a) States/Union Territories were advised to ensure that all Blood Banks were duly licensed and they fully complied with the laws and regulations in force.

(b) Amendments are proposed in the Rules to require ratification by Central Government before issue of licences for blood banks and blood products and for laying down clear guidelines for provision facilities and staff for licensed blood banks.

(c) A phased programme has been undertaken to upgrade all public sector blood banks to provide equipment for proper storage, distribution as well as all facilities for texting against all blood transmissible diseases. Under this programme funds have been provided to State/UT Governments for upgrading 130 blood banks so far and the balance will be covered in the next financial year.

(d) In order to overcome the shortage of blood required for medicare in the country and reduce dependance on professional donors, a vigorous movement for promoting voluntary blood donation is to be launched from the next financial year under the National AIDS Prevention and Control Project. Further, to promote rational use of blood, 30 blood component separation facilities are also proposed to be established under this project in a phased manner.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Mr. Chairman Sir, the answer says that 252 blood banks were operating without a licence. I would like to know for how many years these banks have been operating without a licence and when there is a need to get a licence for operating a blood bank, what action the Government has taken to make sure either they get a licence or they don't operate. It also says that out of 1384 Government blood banks, 130 have been upgraded. The balance is 1254. Does it mean that 1254 Government blood banks or public sector blood banks will be upgraded to include facilities for testing against all blood transmissible diseases ?

Part (c) of the answer says that a phased programme has been undertaken to upgrade all public sector banks to provide necessary equipment for testing against all blood transmissible diseases etc. Does the Government have any plan to make it necessary for private sector banks also to have such testing equipment ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : Sir, the hon. Member is correct in saying that many blood banks in the country are unlicensed. The licences are given by the State Governments and the State Governments have not adequate agencies to see whether the blood banks operating in the State are conforming to the standards prescribed in this regard. So, after this study was conducted we took note of it and we are proposing to amend the rules empowering the Drug Controllers in the States as also in the Centre to see that no blood bank in the country operates without any licence. Up to this time, the power was only with the Drug Controllers of the States and some of the States would not contact the Central Government. In the recent conference of the Health Ministers it was agreed that since the subject is under the Concurrent List, they should give the authority to the Centre to issue necessary guide lines and amend the rules so that the centre gets authority to see that no blood bank in any part of the country is unlicensed. Even those which are licensed this time will have to seek a fresh licence after these rules become operative so that they conform to the standards that have been laid down under the rules.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, blood is the lifeline of every human being or animal. A number of times it is noticed that blood is not available. Recently what happened is.....

MR. CHAIRMAN : Brevity of the question is the life-line of Question Hour.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : I am only covering this because this is a very important issue. You will understand it, Mr. Chairman, Sir, in a second. In Calcutta AB group was not available at about 8 o'clock in the night and some individual requested the TV people that they can announce it. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has any plan by which it can be covered by the TV in an emergency so that blood can be available from the donors. A survey has been conducted by the Ministry through A.E. Ferguson and Company. What does the survey say ? Does it say that private blood banks are meant only for profits or are they really trying to give safe blood ? Is there a case filed by a voluntury organisation ? This is part (c) of my question that a Common Cause, a voluntury organisation, has filed a case. What is the status of that case ?

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR : Everybody is aware that blood is not only the life line.....

श्री सभापति : आप भी संक्षिप्त उत्तर दे दें।

श्री एम एल० फोतेदार : सर, संक्षेप में ही दे दूंगा। I am aware that a Common cause is pending in the Supreme Court. On the recommendations of the Ferguson Committee we are taking necessary steps. We are upgrading and modernising the blood banks in the country. In the next financial year we will be upgrading 608 blood banks in the country.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : The TV coverage was the most important question. Is he willing to answer ?

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR That can be considered. I will tell the hon. Member that.....

MR. CHAIRMAN : He will talk to the Minister concerned.

SHRI M. L. FOTLDAR : ..... so far as blood is concerned, there is a shortage of it . We require about.....

MR. CHAIRMAN : He says whether it is being covered, the requirement is being announced by the TV.

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR : Yes, certainly we will take note of it.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the practice of collecting and storing blood in the Govenment hopsitals has more or less been given up. The net result is the worst exploitation by private blood banks in this area. Today, one unit of blood, that is, 300ml., is sold at the rate of Rs. 300 to Rs. 1,000. That depends on the demand position. But the tragic aspect is that the people who give blood, the poor people, are paid only Rs. 50 per unit. When the expoitation is going on like this, in some places doctors have complained that these private blood banks dilute the blood with saline water and they do not conduct proper testing and screening of blood or HIV, that is, the AIDS virus.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You put your question, please.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Sir, Dr. Raj Bhutra, the President of the India AIDS Foundation in the US, has given a warning yesterday when he gave a lecture in Delhi that unless immediate steps are taken the country will have more cases of AIDS by the turn of the century than the entire world. He has

categorically said that one of the causes of this draeded disease is infected blood.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Come to the question.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : I am coming to the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : The Government should ensure the mandatory proper testing of blood given by donors. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will bring a comprehensive legislation to stipulate mandatory testing and also to control these private blood banks who are exploiting the poor in this field.

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR : I told the hon. Member that we are aware that some private blood banks are trying to mercantatise this thing. We have taken some steps during the last one year. We have written to the Chief Secretaries of the States. The Secretary, Health also has conducted four meetings in different regions of the country and issued necessary instructions to the State Governments, what should be done. In addition to that, we have prescribed some standards for these blood banks. The blood banks, whether in the private sector or in the public sector will have to conform to that. As far as the visit of Mr. Raj Bhutra is concerned, yes, AIDS disease has to be taken very seriously. But whatever he has said, I would like to inform the House at this stage that there is no cause for any alarm. But we cannot remain complacent. What I can say to the House and to the country at present is that utmost caution against spread of AIDS is necessary at this stage.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Do you deny what Dr. Raj Bhutra stated yesterday ? You say there is no cause for alarm. So you deny the fact that there are one million cases of AIDS in India, which he stated yesterday. I want to know whether the Minister denies this fact. I want a specific answwer. (*Interruptions*). He has refuted Dr. Raj Bhutra.

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR : He has not said that there are one million cases now. He has said that by the turn of the century there is likely to be.....

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : He has stated that there are one million cases.....

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR : For the information of the hon. Members, Dr. Raj Bhutra will be meeting me this evening. I will find out from him on what basis and on what information.....

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : You have refuted him.

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR : I have said that there are not one million AIDS cases in the country, as reported to us. I say it firmly.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Then, how many cases are there ?

श्री सभापति : यह आप लिखकर भेज दीजिएगा।

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR : As on 1st March, 1992, the total number of AIDS cases in the country is 115. If you want a State-wise number of cases ..... (*Interruptions*). Don't confuse it with the HIV positive. I am saying about AIDS cases. I am not saying the HIV positive. I am saying about AIDS cases who have got this disease. The number of such cases, State-wise, as reported to us is not more than 115 as on 1st March 1992.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : How many are positive amongst them ?

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया : सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से जानना चाहूंगा कि कब तक भारत सरकार हिन्दुस्तान में जितने भी ब्लड बैंक हैं, सब में एड्स की टैस्टिंग की व्यवस्था कर सकेगी ?

और (ब), कब तक हमारे यहां जो खून दान करते हैं, आज के दिनों में देखा जाता है ब्लड बैंकों में कि जो प्रोफेशनल ब्लड सेलर हैं—खून बेचने वाले लोग, कभी आप कलकत्ता में पार्क स्ट्रीट के बाहर देखिए, पार्क स्ट्रीट पर ब्लड बैंक के बाहर मीलों लम्बी लाइनें लगी होती हैं सुबह उन लोगों की जिन लोगों को खाना नहीं मिलता, वह खून बेचते हैं और जो नार्म्स बने हुए हैं उनको ब्रेक करके हर 7वें दिन वे खून बेचने आ जाते हैं। उसमें हेमोग्लोबिन की संख्या कम होती है, उसमें आर्टिफिश्यल केमिकल मिलाकर उसका हेमोग्लोबिन बढ़ाया जाता है...

श्री सभापति : इनका प्रश्न यह है कि लोग बार-बार खून दें, उसके बीच का जो...

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया : ब्लड डोनेशन पर क्या करने जा रहे हैं ? कोई पूरा कम्प्रेहेंसिव प्रोग्राम लेने जा रहे हैं या नहीं लेने जा रहे हैं ?

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR : We are taking some steps to make the rational use of blood. We are having the latest technology in this so that different components of the blood can be segregated and can be used for the specific problem for which it is meant. Secondly, I have said that we are upgrading 608 blood banks in the country during the next financial year.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Sir, the statement given by the Minister is very alarming that more than half the blood banks are unlicensed. Sir, I would like to ask him two questions. One, the States and the Union Territories were advised to give licences to blood banks and stipulate certain conditions. What is the machinery with the State Governments or the Union Government to ensure that these quidelines are observed by the private blood banks ? Second, a phased programme has been undertaken to upgrade all public sector blood banks and facilities are going to be provided for testing of blood . What is the amount of grant that you are giving these public sector blood banks to provide these facilities ? Have you a scheme for that ?

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR : So far as observance of rules or norms is concerned, I confess, and I confess very boldly but in all humility, that the arrangements made so far are not adequate and we are taking appropriate steps to see that the blood that is given to the blood banks remains safe for transfusion. I would like to call these blood banks as blood transusion centres because here the blood is preserved. As for the steps that we are taking, I have already said that We have framed rules. Those will be published on the 1st of April. We will invite suggestions from the State Governments and thereafter after 45 days the rules will become operative. We have asked the State Governments also to uggrade their people's techinical efficiency so as to check the type of blood they are getting from the people. Thirdly, this year we have released Rs. 9 crores for upgradation of these blood banks. Next year also, so far as the blood banks are concerned there will be no cause for alarm. As far as money is concerned we are going to provide it.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Are you going to set up a machinery to see whether these guidelines are being implemented or not ?

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR : That is what I am saying. Immediately after this is done I will be requesting the hon. Members of this House, because this House has the privilege of representing different States, it is a Council of States and I would like to see your cooperation. You could also advise the State Governments to cooperate and see that the blood banks in the States take effective steps in this regard.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Do not shift your responsibility.

श्री राधाकिशन मालवीय : माननीय सभापति महोदय, आजकल बड़े-बड़े अस्पतालों में... (**व्यवधान**)

श्री सभापति : अब प्रश्न कर लो।

श्री राधाकिशन मालवीय : माननीय सभापति महोदय, आजकल बड़े-बड़े अस्पतालों में पेशेवर लोग ब्लड देने आते हैं, जो कि वे कई बीमारियों से ग्रसित रहते हैं। तो मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि ऐसे पेशेवर लोग जो अस्पतालों में ब्लड देते हैं, क्या उनका परीक्षण करके ब्लड लिया जाता है ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you seeing whether those who are giving blood are examined before they give blood—before they sell or donate blood ?

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR : I must say that whenever blood is given it is tested. But I cannot say with guarantee that the testing facilities at that time are being strictly enforced or not. But by next year we are going to provide the latest state-of-the-art equipment to them and I think that should help in upgrading the testing facilities according to norms.

MR. CHAIRMAN : By 1st January, 1993.

SHRI M. L. FOTDAR : Next financial year.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not this financial year ?

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR : No, Sir, next financial year.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN : Technically, what the hon. Minister has said does not make any sense.

श्री सभापति : अब टैक्नीकली छोड़िये, आप डाक्टर हैं, मालूम है सबको।

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : सभापति जी, मैं पहले केनिया जी को बधाई देना चाहता हूं। ... (**व्यवधान**)

डा० बापू कालदाते : आपको बहुत-बहुत बधाई। ... (**व्यवधान**)

श्री सभापति : वह पहला सवाल कर रही हैं। ... (**व्यवधान**)

डा० बापू कालदाते : हम भी उनको सवाल कर रहे हैं। कब करें? ... (**व्यवधान**)

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया : सभापति महोदय, परेशानी इसलिये है कि हमारी हिन्दू परम्परा में जब सगाई हो जाती है तो लड़कियां घर से नहीं निकलती हैं। परन्तु इन्होंने साहस किया है। ... (**व्यवधान**)

डा० बापू कालदाते : हम वही ऑपर्चुनिटी लेते हैं, उनको बधाई दे रहे हैं।

श्री सभापति : आपको शादी में बुला लेंगी वह। ... (**व्यवधान**) आप इनको शादी में बुलाया कीजिएगा।

KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have gone through the statement made by the hon. Minister. The statement made by the Minister reflects a sorry state of affairs of the blood banks operating in the country. The very first sentence in the statement suggests that out of 1018 blood banks in the country, 616 are operating without licences. I am right now not asking about whether unlicensed blood banks are operating in the country as a lot of discussion has already ensued regarding this aspect of the blood bank. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the last paragraph of the statement where the Minister as assured the House that a vigorous movement for promoting voluntary blood donation will be launched from next year onwards. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps, what measures he is adoptirg to see that there is a really vigorous movement to donate blood voluntarily. That is part (a) of my question. Part (b) is, are you going to have publicity campaign through media like T.V., Radio and newspapers to suggest to the public to donate blood voluntarily ? I would request the Minister that in his reply he should assure the House that at least once in a month, he would donate blood and the other MPs should also follow it.

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया : पहले ही मंत्री जी का खून सूख गया ... (**व्यवधान**)

श्री सभापति : आप इंटरफियर करोगे तो यही होगा, आपको ब्लड देना पड़ेगा ... (**व्यवधान**) आप बीच में ही... (**व्यवधान**) उनको बोलने दीजिए... (**व्यवधान**)

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : मंत्री महोदय को आज इनकी बात मान लेनी चाहिए। फोतेदार जी, आज आपको उनकी बात मान लेनी चाहिए... (**व्यवधान**)

श्री सभापति : बात मान ली है, शंकर दयाल सिंह जी आज ही, अभी ब्लड बैंक जा रहे हैं।

श्री एम. एल. फोतेदार : हां, शंकर दयाल जी जा रहे हैं ब्लड बैंक।

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : जो माननीय सदस्या ने पूछा है, आपको इस बात को स्वीकार कर लेना चाहिए क्योंकि कल ये मांगलिक प्रणय में बंधने जा रही हैं। आज इनकी बात को मानना हमारा कर्त्तव्य होता है।

श्री एम. एल. फोतेदार : मैं ऑनरेबल मेंबर शंकर दयाल सिंह जी को इस बात का यकीन देना चाहता हूं कि कल से ये सवाल मुझे पूछेगी नहीं (**व्यवधान**)

So far as this question about briefing the public about the blood banks is concerned, I can tell the hon. Member that we are going to launch a massive/publicity campaign both through the electronic media as well as through the Press.

दूषित पानी के इस्तेमाल से बीमारियां

*362. **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह** : क्या **स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) हाल ही में दिल्ली में दूषित पानी के इस्तेमाल से फैली बीमारियों का तथा उन क्षेत्रों का ब्यौरा क्या है जहां ये बीमारियां फैली हैं; और